

From: [Gowers, Joe](#)
To: SHECK@RINGWOODNJ.NET
Subject: FW: URGENT - Ringwood Superfund Activity
Date: Tuesday, March 09, 2021 8:17:00 AM

FYI – We received these concerns from Thomas Conway. As of this morning, Craig Coslett was unaware of any work being conducted at the site over the weekend.

Joe

Joseph Gowers
Project Manager

U.S. EPA
New Jersey Remediation Branch
(212)637-4413

From: Thomas Conway [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Gowers, Joe <Gowers.Joe@epa.gov>
Cc: Lopez, Peter <lopez.peter@epa.gov>; Seppi, Pat <Seppi.Pat@epa.gov>
Subject: URGENT - Ringwood Superfund Activity

Mr. Gowers:

I have heard of a lot of activity in the Upper Ringwood neighborhood this weekend. No one has reached out to the community to let them know what is going on. I don't have any answers either. It is extremely disappointing that we had a meeting less than two weeks ago to raise concerns and now work appears to have started without a single response to the concerns that were raised. Communication was a repeated concern and here we are failing at that already.

I must ask that we get some type of response to our concerns BEFORE work begins. I know your timeline is tight with endangered species rules, but the lives of humans are in play at this site and the EPA has to address the outstanding issues. Rushing into this work and thereby endangering human lives to comply with a bat's nesting is unethical.

At the very least, can you confirm that all employees working on the site will have passed a criminal background check?

I would like an amended work schedule that applies to the month of March. Residents need to know when heavy equipment will be used near their homes. They cannot lock their children in some of the houses as **there is a COVID outbreak in the community**. This unique health issue needs to be addressed for everyone's safety.

NJ is still in a state of emergency. It is an Environmental Justice issue to conduct everything in the past year virtually when you know that many members of this community are unable to take part. You have effectively prohibited the community from any chance to give input.

With everything going on in this area right now, it is quite possibly the worst time to rush into a massive project. You have been told on many occasions about the concerns and have failed to address them. It is disappointing that in our last meeting you chose the words "we dealt with that question already." I was hoping you would be able to say, "we ANSWERED that question already." It is the EPA's fault that the CAG is non-functioning at the most important time at this site. I request an immediate cease to all work until proper communication channels are established and criminal background checks on all workers can be confirmed. It was nice of RECON to photocopy dozens of vehicle registrations, now let's get approved background checks with IDs for the site.

Regards,
Thomas Conway
Chair, Ringwood Environmental Commission
Cell: [REDACTED]